

# SEPTEMBER 20

## THE SOURCE OF LIFE - COLOSSIANS 1:15-24

### DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. Paul describes Jesus as supreme and preeminent over all creation (1:15-17), and also over the new creation, the church (1:18-20). What are some of the ways that these verses show Jesus to be utterly unique and worthy of our continued trust and devotion?
2. Paul's description of the Colossian believers before they trusted Jesus is true of all humanity apart from Christ. So, according to these verses, what was our spiritual state before belief in Jesus? What exactly did Jesus do to change our state before God?
3. If Jesus has already reconciled us to God, what will He do in future (1:22)?
4. According to verse 23, how can we know (have assurance) that we have (already) been reconciled to God?

### APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. The believers at Colossae were being lured and enticed away from Jesus, and Paul's aim was to show Jesus' unrivaled greatness and power to save, so that they would keep walking in Him (2:6-7). Is there something competing for your affections for Jesus, or eroding your confidence in Jesus right now? How do those things compare with the portrait of Christ in these verses?
2. Is there some struggle with sin that has you discouraged? How can Paul's description of Jesus' past work ("...having made peace...", "...reconciled...") and Jesus' future work ("...holy and blameless and above reproach...") encourage you in your fight against sin today?
3. What steps might God want you to take to "continue in the faith" and not be moved away "from the hope of the gospel"? Is there a fellow believer around you whom God might want to make more "stable and steadfast" through you? How can you help him or her this week?

### PRAYING GOD'S WORD

1. Father, we thank You that our redemption is secure because it is accomplished by such a divine, mighty, eternal, creating, sustaining, death-defeating Savior.

2. God help us to continue trusting Jesus this week, and to put away the sin He died to free us from.
3. Please open up wide and effective doors this week for us to speak the truth of Jesus, and His cross and resurrection to those who are far from You.